



Recommended Transport Media for Surveillance Organisms

Transport Medium:	S u r v e i l l a n c e O r g a n i s m				
	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	Group A Streptococci	Group B Streptococci
Amies	Not recommended	Acceptable	Not recommended	Acceptable	Acceptable
Amies plus Charcoal	Preferred	Preferred	Not recommended	Preferred	Preferred
Blood Agar	Not recommended	Not recommended	Not recommended	Acceptable	Acceptable
Chocolate Agar	Acceptable	Acceptable	Preferred	Acceptable	Acceptable
Columbia Blood Agar	Not recommended	Acceptable	Not recommended	Acceptable	Acceptable

COMMENTS:

- Ratings in this table refer to the use of the specified media for *transport* only, and reflect the likelihood of recovery of organisms given transit times to the reference labs of 1-3 days in Canada.
- Isolates are most reliably transported in slants or culturettes to reduce the risk of contamination or of physical harm to the isolate.
- Media on plates are not recommended for specimen transport and shipping because of the risk of breakage or of the media separating from the base plate, resulting in physical harm to the organism and potential contamination. If it is absolutely necessary to transport an isolate on a plate, it should be taped closed very securely and packaged to avoid breakage.
- Transport of specimens in liquid media is discouraged due to the risk of leakage during transport and the creation of aerosols when the bottle or tube is opened.

Sources: Marguerite Lovgren, National Centre for Streptococcus, Edmonton; Francoise Collins, LCDC CNS Infections Lab, Winnipeg; Alisa Reasonover, CDC Arctic Investigations Program, Anchorage; Remel Microbiology Products Technical Manual